



AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

In the Abstract:

Please replace the Abstract currently on file with the attached amended Abstract set forth on a separate sheet.

On page 1, line 1, before the paragraph "The invention relates...", please insert the following headings:

- - BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention - -

On page 1, before the paragraph bridging pages 1 and 2, please insert the following heading:

- - 2. The Prior Art - -

On page 3, before the first full paragraph, please insert the following heading:

- - SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION - -

On page 6, between the first and second full paragraphs, please insert the following heading:

- - BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS - -

On page 7, before the last full paragraph, please insert the following heading:

- - DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS - -

On page 7, please replace the last full paragraph with the following re-written paragraph:

- - The figures show a sliding articulation 1 having an essentially cylindrical outer hub 2, 2', 2", an inner hub 3, 3', 3" accommodated in the cavity defined by the outer hub 2, 2', 2", and a cage 4, 4', 4", which cage is guided between the outer hub 2, 2', 2" and the inner hub 3, 3', 3". In this connection, the cage 4, 4', 4" has nine windows 5, which are distributed at uniform intervals along the circumference of the cage 4, 4', 4", and in each of which a ball 6 is accommodated. - -

On pages 7-8, please replace the paragraph bridging pages 7-8 with the following re-written paragraph:

- - In the outer hub 2, 2', 2", nine raceways 7 that correspond to the windows 5 of the cage 4, 4', 4" are formed, which raceways essentially extend parallel to the axis A_2 of the sliding articulation 1. In this connection, the raceways 7 are delimited on the one side by means of a step 8 of the outer hub 2, 2', 2", and on the other side by means of a delimitation stop 9, which is formed by a folded bellows carrier 10 attached to the outer hub 2, 2', 2". - -

On page 8, please replace the first full paragraph with the following re-written paragraph:

- - In the inner hub 3, 3', 3", as well, nine raceways 11 are formed, which run parallel to the axis A_3 of the inner hub 3, 3', 3", which coincides with the axis A_2 of the outer hub 2, 2', 2", as the axis of the articulation, when the inner hub 3, 3', 3" is centered in the outer hub 2, 2', 2". In this connection, the balls 6 are accommodated in the raceways 7 and 11 of the outer hub 2, 2', 2" and the inner hub 3, 3', 3", which are assigned to one another in pairs, so that the outer hub 2, 2', 2" is connected with the inner hub 3, 3', 3" so as to rotate with it, but to be axially displaceable. - -

On page 9, please replace the first full paragraph with the following re-written paragraph:

- - In contrast to the embodiment shown in ~~Fig.~~ Figs. 1 and 2, the cage ~~4~~ 4' is guided on the inner hub ~~3~~ 3' in the case of the sliding articulation according to ~~Fig.~~ Figs. 3 and 4. For this purpose, the cage ~~4~~ 4' is configured as a folding cage, i.e. the cage ~~4~~ 4' has a wave-shaped profile in the cross-section, as shown in Fig. 4. In this connection, the cage ~~4~~ 4' lies on ridges 17 on the outer surface of the inner hub ~~3~~ 3', in certain regions, which are formed between the raceways 11 of the inner hub ~~3~~ 3'. At the same time, the cage ~~4~~ 4' projects into the raceways 11 of the inner hub ~~3~~ 3' with cage guide ridges 18, in certain regions, so that the cage ~~4~~ 4' is guided on the inner hub ~~3~~ 3' so that it cannot rotate, and so that it can be displaced in the axial direction. - -

On pages 9-10, please replace the paragraph bridging pages 9-10 with the following re-written paragraph:

- - In the case of the embodiment of the sliding articulation 1 shown in ~~Fig.~~ Figs. 5 to 7, the cage ~~4~~ 4" is also guided on the inner hub ~~3~~ 3". However, in this case centering of the cage ~~4~~ 4", which again is a cage ~~4~~ 4" configured as a folding cage, on the inner hub ~~3~~ 3" takes place by means of cage guide ridges 19 that

cage, on the inner hub 3 3" takes place by means of cage guide ridges 19 that engage in corresponding centering grooves 20 that are formed in the ridges 17 between the raceways 11 of the inner hub 3 3". - -

On page 10, please replace the first full paragraph with the following re-written paragraph:

- - As is particularly evident from the detail view of Fig. 6, the movement of the balls 6 is limited not only by the stops 8 and 9 in the outer hub 2, 2", but instead, at least one split ring 21 is introduced into the raceways 11 on the inner hub 3, 3", as well, which prevents the balls 6 from exiting from the raceways 11 of the inner hub 3 3" in the axial direction. The distance between the split rings 21, relative to one another, is greater here than the distance between the two stops 8 and 9 in the outer hub 2 2" of the sliding articulation 1. - -

On pages 10-11, please replace the paragraph bridging pages 10-11 with the following re-written paragraph:

- - The balls 6 are accommodated in the raceways 7 and 11 in such a manner that they can roll on their center position shown in Fig. 6, between the two stops 8 and 9, with a simultaneous

displacement of the inner hub 3 3" relative to the outer hub 2 2". In this connection, the center point of the balls 6 can be moved to the left or the right over the distance l_1 , from the position shown in Fig. 6, as the balls 6 roll, before the balls 6 make contact with one of the stops 8 or 9, as shown with the broken line in Fig. 6. In this connection, the inner hub 3 3" is displaced relative to the outer hub 2 2", in the axial direction, over the distance l_2 , which is twice as great as the distance l_1 , so that the distance l_4 , by which the inner hub 3 3" can be displaced relative to the outer hub 2 2" by means of rolling of the balls 6, is twice as great as the distance l_2 . - -

On pages 11-12, please replace the paragraph bridging pages 11-12 with the following re-written paragraph:

- - If the inner hub 3 3" is moved to the right in Fig. 6, relative to the outer hub 2 2", the ball 6 makes contact on the outside with the stop 9, and at the same time lies against the left split ring 21 of the inner hub 3 3" in Fig. 6. Any further relative movement between the inner hub 3 3" and the outer hub 2 2" is prevented in this manner. In the opposite direction, if the inner hub 3 3" is moved to the left in Fig. 6, the ball 6 first makes contact with the stop 8 of the outer hub 2 2". However, the ball 6 does not yet lie against the right split ring

21 of the inner hub 3 3" in Fig. 6. This makes it possible to displace the inner hub 3 3" further to the left in Fig. 6, relative to the outer hub 2, 2", even if the ball 6 has already made contact with the stop 8 in the outer hub 2 2". When this further displacement of the inner hub 3 3" relative to the outer hub 2 2" occurs, however, the ball 6 can no longer roll in the raceways 7 or 11, respectively, since it already rests against the stop 8 on the outside. The further displacement of the inner hub 3 3" relative to the outer hub 2 2" therefore takes place in that the ball 6 slides in the raceway 11 of the inner hub 3 3", until the ball 6 makes contact with the right split ring 21 of the inner hub 3 3" in Fig. 6. This additional distance over which the inner hub 3 3" can be displaced relative to the outer hub 2 2", in the axial direction, when the ball 6 already rests against a stop 8 of the outer hub 2 2", is indicated in Fig 6 as 1₃. - -

On page 12, please replace the first full paragraph with the following re-written paragraph:

- - In operation, the ball 6 rolls in the raceways 7 and 11, respectively, during axial displacement of +/- 1₂ from the center position of the inner hub 3 3" relative to the outer hub 2 2" shown in Fig. 6, so that the displacement resistance is

minimized. For assembly of the sliding articulation 1, however, the inner hub 3 3" can be displaced in the axial direction over the distance 1₃, relative to the outer hub 2, 2", whereby the ball 6 slides in the raceway 11 of the inner hub 3 3". - -

On page 12, please replace the last full paragraph with the following re-written paragraph:

- - The outer hub 2, 2', 2" is preferably formed as a shaped sheet-metal part, i.e. the raceways 7 as well as the centering grooves 13, if applicable, are made in the outer hub 2, 2', 2" without cutting. The raceways 11 in the inner hub 3, 3', 3" and/or the plug-in tooth system 16 provided in the bore 15 can also be made without cutting, for example using a stamping process. - -

On page 13, please replace the first full paragraph with the following re-written paragraph:

- - Plastic or sheet steel are suitable as materials for the cage 4, 4', 4", for example. - -

On page 13, please replace the second full paragraph with the following re-written paragraph:

- - In order to seal the sliding articulation 1, a protective sheet metal piece 22 can be provided in the outer hub 2, 2', 2". Furthermore, it is possible to seal the sliding articulation 1 towards the outside, on the side opposite the protective sheet metal piece 22, with a folded bellows 23, which is attached to the outer hub 2, 2', 2" by the folded bellows carrier 10. - -

On page 13, please replace the third full paragraph with the following re-written paragraph:

- - The sliding articulation 1 is particularly suitable as a microangle sliding articulation for low angles of inclination between the outer hub 2, 2', 2" and the inner hub 3, 3', 3". In this connection, the angles of inclination during operation should be selected in such a manner that self-locking does not occur. - -

On pages 14-15, please replace the paragraph entitled "Reference Symbol List" with the following re-written paragraph:

- - **Reference Symbol List**

1 sliding articulation

2, 2', 2" outer hub

3, <u>3', 3"</u>	inner hub
4, <u>4', 4"</u>	cage
5	window in the cage 4, <u>4', 4"</u>
6	ball
7	raceway in the outer hub 2, <u>2', 2"</u>
8	stop
9	stop
10	folded bellows carrier
11	raceway of the inner hub 3, <u>3', 3"</u>
12	cage guide ridge
13	centering groove
14	ridge of the outer hub 2, <u>2', 2"</u>
15	central bore of the inner hub 3, <u>3', 3"</u>
16	plug-in tooth system
17	ridge of the inner hub 3, <u>3', 3"</u>
18	cage guide ridge
19	cage guide ridge
20	centering groove in the inner hub 3, <u>3', 3"</u>
21	split ring
22	protective sheet metal piece
23	folded bellows
A ₂	axis of the outer hub 2, <u>2', 2"</u>
A ₃	axis of the inner hub 3, <u>3', 3"</u>

- 1_1 displacement distance of the center point of the ball 6
- 1_2 displacement distance of the inner hub $3, 3', 3''$ relative to the outer hub $2, 2', 2''$ (= 2 times 1_1)
- 1_3 additional distance for displacement of the inner hub $3, 3', 3''$ relative to the outer hub $2, 2', 2''$
- 1_4 total displacement distance of the outer hub $2, 2', 2''$ relative to the inner hub $3, 3', 3''$ while the ball 6 rolls (2 times 1_2) - -

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached three (3) sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 3-7. In Figs. 3 and 4, the reference numerals for the outer hub, the inner hub, and the cage have been changed to - - 2', 3', and 4' - -, respectively. In Fig. 5, the reference numeral for the cage has been changed to - - 4" - -. In Figs. 6 and 7, the reference numerals for the outer hub, the inner hub and the cage have been changed to - - 2", 3", and 4" - -, respectively. These sheets which depict Figs. 3-7 replace the original sheets depicting Figs. 3-7.

Attachment: Three (3) replacement drawing sheets.

Election of Species:

The Patent Examiner has required the selection of one of the following Species for further prosecution:

Species I: Figs. 1 and 2; or

Species II: Figs. 3 and 4; or

Species III: Figs. 5-7.

with claims 1, 2, 8 and 9 considered generic.

ELECTION:

Applicants respectfully elect, with traverse, the invention of Species III shown in Figs. 5-7, with claims 1-3, 5, and 8-11 readable thereon, and claims 1, 2, 8 and 9 generic.